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Opinion



LETTER: TIME initiative lesser of evils taxpayers may face

Posted: Wednesday, Aug 20th, 2008

William S. Justice — Page

In reference to local comments on Page's radio station: I got a letter asking me to support the TIME (Transportation and Infrastructure Moving Arizona's Economy) initiative, which I placed on the agenda for direction from the Page City Council. The item was discussed and then passed 6-0 in favor.

Claims stated indicate the Northern Arizona Council of Governments advises no one is in support of TIME. I'm on the NACOG executive board and can assure the citizens of Page this issue is supported by many in NACOG — Flagstaff, Prescott, Chino Valley and most of Yavapai County. I support it.

The road issue in rural Arizona ideally should be fixed by our state Legislature; this isn't happening. My belief is, when they get around to addressing the needs of ADOT to fix our roads, they will do at least two things.

They will try to raid state-shared revenue, and they will increase the fuel tax, which will impact our citizenry far more than a 1-cent sales tax. Most of us in rural Arizona consume much more than our counterparts in the large cities, meaning we will bear the brunt of this type of tax increase.

Remarks about the council not being aware of this issue have no merit, as well. If a councilman wasn't aware, it simply means they did not read the material provided in

the last six months. I do not believe this to be the case.

Our community relies on our visitor's spending money here. If the visitors fail to come without their toys due to bad roads, we will be forced to find another form of tax increase to support Page's infrastructure.

It seems the bottom line is simply which is the least burden on one's pocketbook, a fact we may need to decide by November.

(William S. Justice is Page's mayor.)

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